



NEWS RELEASE

**FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20427**

**Monday, March 1, 2010
For Immediate Release
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FMCS Labor-Management Grants Program Accepts Applications for FY 2010

WASHINGTON, DC— The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service has opened its labor-management grants application period for fiscal year 2010.

Grants are awarded by the Agency to promote best practices in labor-management cooperation as a way of improving collective bargaining and proactively mitigating labor-management disputes. The grant program supports the establishment and operation of joint labor-management committees at the plant level, the company level, on a community or area-wide basis, within a particular industry, and for public sector employees.

Grant applications may be submitted until June 30, 2010. Information about how to apply can be obtained online at the agency's Web site---www.fmcs.gov. Interested parties are urged to contact the FMCS Grants Office at (202) 606-8181 with any questions regarding the application process.

FMCS Director George H. Cohen said the FMCS grants program has been a source of innovation and inspiration for numerous labor-management collaborations around the country. "FMCS grants give support and encouragement to labor and management joining together to think creatively about resolving complex workplace issues. I hope that labor-management committees at any level will take advantage of this opportunity to test innovative ideas. The benefits of the program multiply when other parties see the results and adopt similar practices," he said.

The grants program, which began in 1981 under the authority of the Labor-Management Cooperation Act of 1978 (PL 95-524), has funded a broad range of projects including outreach, communications, strategic planning, minority recruitment and process development.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, created in 1947, is an independent U.S. government agency whose mission is to preserve and promote labor-management peace and cooperation. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with 10 district offices and 67 field offices, the agency provides mediation and conflict resolution services to industry, government agencies and communities.

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